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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference P60856PC00	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/NL 03/00737	International filing date (day/month/year) 29.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 29.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B65G69/28		
Applicant STERTIL B.V.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 27.05.2004	Date of completion of this report 10.11.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Schneider, M Telephone No. +31 70 340-4495



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/NL 03/00737

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-21 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/7-7/7 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-16,18-20
	No: Claims	17,21
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	17-21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/NL 03/00737

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: US-A-6 163 913 (LETOURNEAU JOHN) 26 December 2000 (2000-12-26);
D2: US-A-2 714 735 (WATSON CHARLES E) 9 August 1955 (1955-08-09).

- 1.1 A lip having a lip upper surface being a well-known feature of dock levellers of the prior art, the subject-matter of **claim 17** lacks novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).
 - 1.2 A lip hinge construction with a pivot element which pivotably connects an end of a lip and an end of a deck plate of a deck leveller, wherein the lip upper surface is pivotable relative to a position in line with the deck upper surface, to both one and the other side through the pivot element, is also well-known from the prior art (see for example D2). The subject-matter of **claim 21** lacks therefore also novelty (Article 33(2) PCT).
 - 1.3 The technical features of claims 18-20 are obvious characteristics/dimensions of a lip, which do not involve in the present application any new, surprising effect. The subject-matter of **claims 18-20** cannot be therefore considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).
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- 2.1 Document D1, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a dock leveller from which the subject-matter of claim 1 differs in that the lip upper surface is pivotable to both sides of the position in line with the deck upper surface.
The combination of technical features of claim 1 is not known or suggested by the prior art and has the advantageous property, compared to the prior art, of having the possibility to have a small relative angle between the deck and the lip in a larger range of loading positions of the leveller; **claim 1** meet therefore the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Article 33(2),(3) PCT).
 - 2.2 **Claims 2-16** are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step (Article 33(2),(3) PCT).